

Ernie Fletcher  
Governor

LaJuana S. Wilcher, Secretary  
Environmental and Public  
Protection Cabinet

Christopher L. Lilly  
Commissioner  
Department of Public Protection



Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Public Service Commission  
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FCC - MAILROOM

Mark David Goss  
Chairman

Teresa J. Hill  
Vice Chairman

Gregory Coker  
Commissioner

September 20, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 - 12th Street, SW, Room TW-A306  
Washington, DC 20554

Karen M. Majcher  
Universal Service Administrative Company  
2000 L Street, N.W., Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036

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RE: CC Docket No. 96-45  
Annual State Commission Rate Comparability Review and Certification  
For Areas Served by Non-Rural Carriers

Dear Mmes. Dortch and Majcher:

In accordance with Title 47 C.F.R. § 54.316, the Public Service Commission of Kentucky hereby certifies that the residential telephone rates charged for service as of July 1, 2005, are reasonably comparable to urban rates nationwide.

In its *Order on Remand, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Memorandum Opinion and Order* released in the above-referenced docket on October 27, 2003,<sup>1</sup> the Federal Communications Commission established an annually-adjusted nationwide rate benchmark as a "safe harbor." Based upon the "safe harbor," rates in rural, high-cost areas that are below the benchmark are presumed to be reasonably comparable to urban rates nationwide. The residential rates in rural areas served by BellSouth Telecommunication, Inc., Cincinnati Bell Telephone, and Kentucky Alltel Inc., the non-rural incumbent local exchange carriers operating in Kentucky, are below the current nationwide urban benchmark of \$34.21, and as such, fall within the safe harbor afforded by 47 C.F.R. § 54.316(b).

If additional information is required, please do not hesitate to contact Jim Stevens of my staff at (502) 564-3940.

Sincerely,

Ruth O'Donnell  
Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> *Order on Remand, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Memorandum Opinion and Order*, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 03-249, 18 FCC Rcd 22559, rel. October 27, 2003.